

*By LANCE MASTERS*

Wycombe W. 2, Sutton 2

WHILE many Isthmian League footballers are thinking of getting their cricket bats oiled or tennis rackets re-strung, three teams will think of nothing for the next fortnight but the hard slog of winning the championship.

Wycombe, favourites to take the League title for the first time in 13 years, made it tougher for themselves by failing to beat Sutton United, the team snapping at their heels at the top of the table.

With four matches to play, Wycombe lead with 54 points, one point above Sutton, who have only two games left. By dropping a point Wycombe made it easier for Enfield the reigning champions, to catch up in their last eight matches.

Wycombe played well enough in the first half on the Loakes

Park slope to have made sure of both points. But they lost their rhythm in a violent second half and Sutton emerged as the more durable side.

Sutton, not so tight at the back since their centre-half, John Faulkner, joined Leeds last month, were caught twice after Pritchard had put them ahead with a low shot deflected by Suddaby.

First they let Hutchinson equalise by getting themselves into a tangle following a free kick by Horseman. Then an unmarked Searle was given time and space to coolly shoot a second goal from Suddaby's free kick shortly before half-time.

The second half was a bad-tempered brawl, with too many offenders unpunished by an indulgent referee. When the hacking and punching subsided there was just time for Drabwell to equalise for Sutton from a corner by Bladon.